

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Weekly Report
For the Week Ending 2/26/16

1. Past Week's Happenings:

On 2/22, RCL (Rebecca Russo) sent information on private ground water wells at the request of Senator Tester's staff during a 2/11 conference call regarding radionuclides detected in private drinking water wells outside Kalispell, MT.

On 2/22, the RCL received a request from Representative Perlmutter's Office to revisit discussions held in March of 2014 with Commerce City regarding lifting deed restrictions at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Representative Perlmutter's Office is proposing a legislative fix, which Region 8 and OCIR are currently reviewing.

On 2/23, the RCL, Andrea Madigan, Cynthia Peterson and Mike Cirian held a conference call with Senator Tester's staff on the CFAC Superfund site.

OCIR has officially commented on Good Samaritan Legislation (comments sent to SLT by RCL on 2/22).

2/24/16, there was a hearing on Renewable Fuel Standard by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee with testimony from Janet McCabe, acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air, and Howard Gruenspecht, deputy administrator energy for the Information Administration. OCIR reported that the hearing went well.

2/26/16, Administrator McCarthy had a call with Senator Tester regarding the Butte Superfund site and Bear Spray.

Roll-Outs/Notifications Sent this Week:

BNSF Railway Settlement – to Congressional staff in affected geographical areas
Energy Star Certifications - to Congressional staff in affected geographical areas
DERA Grant Availability Announcement – to Intergovernmental Organizations.

2. Next Week's Happenings:

No formal meetings scheduled.
No rollouts planned.

3. Upcoming Hearings/Meetings:

Topic: Examining Federal Administration of the Safe Drinking Water Act in Flint, MI,
Part 3
Committee: House Oversight
Date: March 17, 2016, 10 am
EPA Witness: Administrator

4. Legislative Updates:

GKM Spill Accountability Act (HB 4483). Introduced on 2/4/16.

Would set up an independent inquiry into GKM to investigate specifically who was responsible for the incident; to expedite claims; to allow the state, instead of EPA, to carry out a long-term water quality monitoring plan.

CO: Rules for Allowed Marijuana Pesticides (CO S 15). Passed CO House on 2/18/16.

Requires that a Governor-designated State Agency clarify which pesticides may be used in the marijuana industry.

SD: House Concurrent Resolution (HCR 1005): Passed House on 2/10 (Passed House on 1/5).

Urges the federal government to refrain from enacting regulations that threaten the reliability and affordability of electric power in the northern great plains.

UT: Reduce/Repeal of Solar Power Tax Credit (H 327): In House Committee.

Reduces, and then repeals tax credits for residential and commercial energy systems that utilize solar power.

WY: Trespassing Provisions for Collecting Data on Open Land (SF 0075 and 0076). Passed Senate on 2/17 and 2/18 respectively.

Changes to say a person is guilty of trespassing to unlawfully collect resource data if he enters onto PRIVATE (removes "OPEN") land.

5. New or Outstanding Letters:

- Senator Tester, 1/29/16 letter to Administrator McCarthy regarding CFAC. Will be formally assigned to EPR on Monday 2/29/16.
- Representative Polis, 2/22/16 letter to Laura Vaught (HQ). Will be formally assigned to EPR on Monday 2/29/16.
- Several GKM Citizen Letters.

6. Congressionals and Other Elected Officials in the News/on Social Media:



Senator Jon Tester (@SenatorTester)

2/24/16, 1:29 PM

Families & businesses in Columbia Falls deserve certainty & predictability during the cleanup of CFAC.
[#mtpol flatheadnewsgroup.com/hungryhorsenew...](https://twitter.com/mtpol/status/664111111111111111)

Thune Joins More Than 200 Members of Congress in Effort to Block Obama EPA's Backdoor National Energy Tax - Press Releases - U.S. Senator John Thune from Senator John Thune's Tweet



Rep. Diana DeGette (@RepDianaDeGette)

2/23/16, 11:21 AM

Lowering [#CO2](#) output is vital to slowing [#climatechange](#). On top of that, it could save us billions in [#publichealth](#). bit.ly/20QnDYp